

Statement by Honorable Michelle Van Cleave National Counterintelligence Executive On the President's approval of the National Counterintelligence Strategy

President Bush has approved the first National Counterintelligence Strategy of the United States, which sets forth the mission of U.S. counterintelligence in support of the Nation's security. It directs the integration and strategic orchestration of America's counterintelligence resources to identify, assess, and defeat the foreign intelligence threats to the United States at home and abroad.

This strategy is the first of its kind and will require substantial changes in the conduct of U.S. counterintelligence. These changes include a renewed intelligence focus on hostile services and intelligence capabilities, including those of terrorist groups, and proactive efforts to defeat them.

To execute the President's strategy and at the direction of the Director of National Intelligence, I look to each of the elements of the counterintelligence community to do their vital work, and to be prepared to assume new responsibilities. We also must join together to build the national-level capability needed to bring the resources of strategic counterintelligence into the service of the Nation's security.